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DEPT FOR WHA/CAR KAREN WILLIAMS

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SUBJECT: T&T TO BE WELL REPRESENTED AT US-CARICOM MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 43123

11. At the April 12 weekly post-cabinet meeting press conference, Foreign Minister Arnold Piggott announced publicly that Prime Minister Patrick Manning and he will be attending the June 19-21 US-Caricom Conference in Washington. Piggott was familiar with the proposed objectives and notional agenda of the conference, and had been in close communication with the T&T Ambassador and staff in Washington, who had been involved in preparatory discussion for the event.

12. Charg spoke with Piggott privately on April 11. In addition to confirming his and the Prime Minister's attendance, he related that he would also seek a separate meeting with Secretary Rice.

13. We passed a copy of the proposed agenda points in reftel to the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Edwina Leacock. She did not have any immediate comment but promised to get back to us soon with something substantive. We imagine that this will be coordinated with their CARICOM partners.

SWEENEY